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UNCLAS KOLKATA 000131

DEPT FOR CA, DS/IP/SCA, DS/TIA/ITA AND DS/CC

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ASEC IN
SUBJECT: KOLKATA EAC MEETING CONCERNING DETAINEE PHOTOGRAPHS

REF: STATE 277971

¶1. On May 19, 2009, the Acting Consul General convened the Emergency Action Committee (EAC) to consider the likely impact of unreleased detainee photographs on the official and private American communities in Kolkata. In attendance were representatives from CLO, CONS, FCS, PAO, POL, and RSO.

¶2. RSO assessed that any controversy arising from unreleased detainee photographs could result in small, isolated peaceful anti-American demonstrations in the city; however, the issue was not likely to create additional concerns. RSO stated that local police support and Post's current security posture were sufficient at the present time.

¶3. PAO stated that media attention remained focused on the outcome of the Indian elections and that the issue of unreleased detainee photographs would not resonate widely among the various media outlets. PAO noted that, given the fact that the photographs date from the Bush administration's time in office, for the vast majority of Indians the Obama administration is unlikely to share blame for those actions.

¶4. POL opined that the Left parties currently ruling West Bengal were in a state of internal disarray following their disastrous parliamentary poll results and that it would be difficult for them to mobilize any anti-American demonstrations.

¶5. The EAC agreed that non-disclosure of the remaining detainee photographs was a non-issue at the present time in Kolkata and that no additional recommendations were necessary.

TAYLOR